Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 1 to 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

2. One vendor may be able to provide more than one demanded capability as pictorially depicted in Figure 1. Vendor V1 can provide demanded capabilities DC1 and ~~DC12~~ DC2.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 9 to 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Assuming that these vendors have sufficient capacity to meet the imposed demand, both of the above solutions are feasible. However, the cost associated with them may not be the same. The total cost of solution 1 might be lower because V1 provides a lower price on the combined bid for DC1 and DC2. Also, solution 2 might be delivered quicker because three different vendors who take a smaller amount of time together to satisfy all demanded capabilities. It is immediately apparent that ~~there~~ a combinatorial number of feasible solutions exist for the coalition formation problem, each with an associated cost or duration to deliver. Developing an optimal solution will involve searching the entire space of solutions which can be prohibitive in terms of computation time. Therefore, implicit solution space spanning techniques are developed to solve this decision support problem.